

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: 02/13/04
Agenda Item: 9

To: BEACON Board of Directors
From: Executive Director
Date 02/02/04

Subject: Kelp Re-establishment Project

REQUIRED ACTION:

- a. **Approve plan to sponsor study of kelp replenishment and authorize application and payment of fees to Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission**
- a. **Confirm Executive Directors letter of support for the project proposal for Bren School and BEACON's further sponsorship of study of the kelp re-establishment concept.**
- c. **Approve CEQA Notice of Exemption**

RECOMMENDATION: Policy.

DISCUSSION:

As previously discussed with your Board, the possibility that the loss of kelp in the El Nino years may have had a causative effect on the increased erosion at beaches such as Goleta Beach is an area where greater study may be warranted. Mr. Robert Kiel has submitted a proposal, attached. Also, BEACON has discussed on several occasions the various schools of thought regarding kelp loss as a factor in beach erosion. Mr. Kiel has begun the application process to get Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission permits for a limited experimental study to see if his methodology for kelp establishment on a sandy bottom works. He will partner with the UCSB Marine Science Institute to carry out the proposed experiment. The experiment in Goleta Bay is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 for information collection. We are requesting your approval of sponsoring Mr. Kiel in his application to the California Commission and State Lands Commission. The Santa Barbara County Parks Department will provide BEACON with funds to pay the two agencies' application fees.

In order to determine whether the kelp loss during heavy storms is a factor in beach erosion a study of existing research and a survey of historical kelp habitat and beach erosion would be helpful. It has been proposed that the Bren School conduct such a study (see attached), with some financial support from the Shoreline Preservation Fund and Community Environmental Council. The Executive Director has written a letter in support of the Bren School proposal and requests your Board confirm BEACON's support for this study. BEACON and member agency staff will provide assistance to the study, but there is no separate funding required of BEACON.

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A California Joint Powers Agency

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